

W5YI REPORT

Up to the minute news from the worlds of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

Dits & Bits

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★ In This Issue ★

New VEC Instructions Issued
Special HamVention Air Fare
The Media Vs. the Military
U.S. RF Standards Awaited
Radio Marti Fails to Appear
Phone Home from the Airliner!
Pay Phones = Vending Machines
Update on Dial-A-Porn
Frequency Coordinator Faces Suit
On Advanced Class Vol. Examiners
Third Party/Reciprocal Countries
Postage Rates Going Up
and much, much more!



VOL. 7, Issue #2 \$1.00 PUBLISHED TWICE A MONTH January 15, 1985

VE Program FCC Notification Eliminated

The Commission has issued updated instructions to Volunteer-Examiner Coordinators. The new guidelines have an effective date of January 1, 1985. VEC's act as the testing link between the FCC's Gettysburg licensing facility and the Volunteer Examiner.

The major change concerns prior FCC notification of amateur radio operator test sessions. The previous instructions (dated November 1984) required VECs to notify in writing the Engineer-in-charge of FCC District Offices having jurisdiction over the area where the examination is to be held. The purpose of this notification was to provide local FCC field offices with test date/site information so that they could properly respond to amateur radio operator exam inquiries.

This notification had to be made at least 30 days in advance of the examination session registration deadline. The formal notification required the VEC to advise the FCC of the test date, time, place, test registration requirements and the amount of reimbursement fee (if any) and where and how it is to be paid. The Consumer Assistance Branch of the FCC's Gettysburg, PA, facility also had to be notified.

We wrote the FCC's Personal Radio Branch last November and advised them that their notification requirements were very burdensome. "Amateurs that want to administer

testing or be tested do not want to wait six weeks or more (additional time is needed to get the test session request to the VEC and for the VEC to notify the FCC) to participate in the program," I wrote.

We also advised the FCC that many test sessions were not open to the public "for example small test sessions involving examinations being administered in an individual's home such as to the handi-capped... tests conducted at the end of a license upgrade school... and others." We requested that the "30 day FCC notification requirement" be made optional and mandatory only for examinations given at public/amateur gatherings where the event dates are known well in advance such as at hamfests. The PRB responded to our request by eliminating the notification requirement entirely.

The new rules will greatly speed up test administration. VE's now only have to advise the VEC that a test session will be held and request appropriate testing information. We have changed our own VEC program guidelines to reflect the FCC notification changes.

Effective immediately it is only necessary for our Volunteer Examiners to advise us of the:

- (1.) - City & State that a test will take place in. (We don't need to know the facility.)
- (2.) - Date(s) of the test session.
- (3.) - Name, call sign, address, and telephone

number of the contact Volunteer Examiner.

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The public announcement must show the amount of reimbursement (test) fee required from each candidate and where and how it is to be paid.

DAYTON HAMVENTION SPECIAL AIR FARE

Want to save more than a third on your air fare to the 1985 Dayton HamVention? With the cooperation of Piedmont airlines, we have come up with a special deal for ham operators attending HamVention-'85. Last year we arranged for a special fare for Dallas amateurs going to Dayton with Piedmont Airlines' Dallas-/Ft. Worth Customer Service Manager, Maurice Booth.

Maurice also happens to be a ham, WD4RGU and is well aware of the Dayton HamVention. HamVention is, by far, the world's largest convention of amateur radio operators and the largest convention held annually in Dayton, Ohio. They expect 25,000 participants this year. We talked about expanding the special fare program throughout their system for the 1985 HamVention to be held April 26, 27, and 28, 1985, at Dayton's Hara Arena. Maurice arranged for Piedmont's Convention Sales Department in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to contact us. We now have arranged for a:

"W5YI HamVention Special"
35% OFF THE REGULAR COACH AIRFARE

throughout the entire Piedmont system. Dayton is a "hub" for Piedmont and they have direct (mostly non-stop) flights from San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver, Dallas, Chicago, Cincinnati, Louisville, Miami, Tampa, Baltimore, Boston, Orlando, Detroit, South Bend, New York, Philadelphia and many, many other cities. We are being sent a "Convention Package" from Piedmont, but this has not arrived yet.

A special toll-free telephone number (1-800-334-8644) has been established for HamVentioners to call in their reservations. This special fare is also available through travel agents. Piedmont will take your air line reservation and quote you 35% off the regular coach fare price. You must depart and return within a 10-day period of the HamVention. Payment for your airline ticket can be by credit card... or at the terminal when you leave.

The name of the Convention Sales Representative at this Winston-Salem, NC, toll-free number (1-800-334-8644) is Ellie Goforth. Contact her if you have any problems. Be sure to ask for the "W5YI HamVention Special" air fare.

Please give this special HamVention fare the widest possible publicity since it is the first time that any airline has offered a special fare solely for ham operators attending a hamfest. Publish this information in your club bulletins if at all possible... tell your friends. If this program is successful, it will be repeated next year again.

Amateurs desiring hotel accommodations should contact: Dayton HamVention Housing; 1980 Kettering Tower; Dayton, Ohio 45423 - (Tel: 513-223-2612)

The ARRL Southwest Division Convention promises to be a "biggy!" It will be held aboard the Queen Mary berthed in Long Beach, California, August 9 to 11. Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, will be the banquet speaker. Roy Neal (K6DUE of NBC News), Dave Sumner (K1ZZ League General Manager) and N3AKD (Chris Imlay, ARRL Legal Beagle) also on the same program. The famed rhombic farm of Don Wallace, W6AM, also will be available to registered attendees! They really think big out there!

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AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR EXAMINATION QUESTIONS A booklet containing the FCC Amateur Radio Operator Study Guide and all 1600 actual test questions for all ham classes (Novice through Extra Class) now available for \$2.50 (postpaid) from: **THE W5YI REPORT; 1020 Byron Lane; Arlington, TX - 76012** Note our new phone number.... (817) 461-6443

I contacted the League, but Dave was tied up and couldn't talk to me. I later phoned him at his home and reached a recording.

Dave returned my call on the weekend. The question that I had for Dave was "Why would an outdated pay-scale be published on the League bulletin board in the first place." Sumner acknowledged that the pay scale was there, but that it was an old one that he had taken down several times over the years - only to have it returned there by "someone." He didn't know who.

THIRD PARTY & RECIPROCAL OPERATIONS

The following is a current list of countries that have third party traffic and reciprocal operating privileges with the United States and Canadian amateurs.

* = Automatic Reciprocity (No permit required)	3rd Party Traffic U.S./Canada		Reciprocal Operating: U.S./ Canada	
Antigua & Barbuda	X	X		
Argentina	X		X	X
Australia	X	X	X	X
Austria			X	X
The Bahamas			X	X
Barbados			X	X
Belgium			X	X
Belize	X			
Bolivia	X	X	X	
Rep. of Botswana			X	X
Brazil	X		X	X
Canada (*)	X	-	X	-
Chile	X	X	X	X
Colombia	X	X	X	X
Costa Rica	X	X	X	X
Cuba	X			
Dominica	X	X		X
Dominican Republic	X	X	X	X
Denmark			X	X
Ecuador	X		X	X
El Salvador	X	X	X	
Fiji			X	
Finland			X	
France			X	X
The Gambia	X			
Ghana	X			
Greece			X	X
Grenada	X	X	X	X
Guatemala	X	X	X	X

	3rd Party Traffic U.S./Canada		Reciprocal Operating: U.S./ Canada	
Guyana	X	X		X
Fed.Rep./Germany			X	X
Haiti	X	X	X	X
Honduras	X	X	X	X
Iceland			X	X
India			X	X
Indonesia			X	X
Rep. of Ireland			X	X
Israel	X	X	X	X
Italy			X	X
Jamaica	X	X	X	X
Jordan	X		X	
Kiribati			X	
Kuwait			X	
Liberia	X		X	
Luxembourg			X	X
Rep. of Malta				X
Mexico	X	X		
Monaco			X	
Netherlands Antilles			X	X
Netherlands			X	X
New Zealand			X	X
Nicaragua	X	X	X	X
Northern Ireland			X	X
Norway			X	X
Rep. of Panama	X		X	X
Papua New Guinea				X
Paraguay	X	X	X	X
Peru	X	X	X	X
Philippines			X	X
Rep. of Poland				X
Portugal			X	X
St. Lucia	X		X	X
Senegal				X
Seychelles			X	
Sierra Leone			X	
Solomon Islands			X	
Spain			X	
St.Vincent/Grenadines	X			
Suriname			X	
Swaziland	X			
Sweden			X	X
Switzerland			X	X
Trinidad & Tobago	X	X	X	
Tuvalu			X	
United Kingdom			X	X
United States (*)	-	X	-	X
Uruguay	X	X	X	X
Venezuela	X	X	X	X
Yugoslavia			X	
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Apparently the delay is caused by bureaucratic "red tape." The VOA says they are having trouble getting security clearances for its newly recruited staff. About half of the 178 staff positions have been filled.

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The FCC has adopted an Order making "editorial amendments" to Part 97. The changes are effective December 6, 1984. No comment period was authorized since the order "deleted obsolete terms, corrected omissions and provided better editorial uniformity." Amendments included Table of Contents changes and deletions of references to the Conditional Class license, 160-meter LORAN provisions, and FCC examination points. The FCC also added a 200 kilometer radius (124 mile) 420-450 MHz RF protection area adjacent to Warner Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. Amateurs in this zone must operate with reduced power outputs (no more than 50 watts PEP) unless expressly authorized by the Commission.

The following countries forbid radio communication with amateurs in their jurisdiction: Burma, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Somali, Turkey, Yemen and Zaire.

Special Canadian Navy amateur prefixes have been authorized by the DOC for both active and inactive Naval personnel. Between April 1st and May 31st, VE's may use CF, VO's can use VC, and CY for VY. The special prefixes commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Canadian Navy.

The current amateur population of Canada is 22,697 with the the province of Ontario having the most: 8,633. There are twice as many amateurs in California than all of Canada. The Canadian amateur service is growing, but only at a rate of 3-4% a year. In 1983, 21,822 were licensed in Canada; 1982, 21,225.

AIRBORNE TELEPHONE CALLING EXPANDS

Airfone provides air-to-ground radio telephone service to the nation's airline passengers who get their phone calls charged to their credit cards. Air One, American, Delta, Eastern, Northwest, Pan Am, Republic, United, TWA... have all signed on. Northwest is currently logging about 600 calls a day. It costs about \$20,000 to equip an aircraft with Airfone. The airlines get a 11-14% commission.

The airlines that have the system in place report that customer response has been favorable but that additional ground stations are needed in the northwest to allow full national coverage. The company currently has 37 ground stations. Airfone's on-board computers automatically contact the farthest ground station in front of the airliner when calls are placed. Each station can handle 31 simultaneous single sideband calls.

To place a call you simply insert any of six major credit cards into an Airfone unit mounted on the cabin wall and take the released portable cordless handset back to your seat and dial the number. You get your credit card back when you return the handset. Phone calls cost \$7.50 for the first three minutes and \$1.25 for each minute thereafter regardless of distance. Calls can last up to 45 minutes at a cost of \$62.50.

Last November, the FCC said Airfone was an unnecessary luxury that would not be popular and denied Airfone a permanent frequency slot in the 900-MHz band. The Commission did, however, authorize them a one year extension of their experimental license.

Airfone president Jack Goeken said the one year reprieve will prove the FCC wrong. If the service is well accepted, Airfone stands a good chance of obtaining spectrum on a permanent basis although they may have to share it with the Mobile Satellite Service. At present they use 4-MHz of paired spectrum at 944-947 and 899-901 MHz. Goeken is no stranger to regulatory battles. He is a founder and past president of MCI Communications Corporation. Goeken Communications has spent some \$50 million in the last seven years to develop the public air-to-ground telephone system.

PAY PHONES BECOME VENDING MACHINES!

The newest electronic money-maker may well turn out to be private pay phones! The FCC ruled last year that it is legal to own your own pay phone. Some entrepreneurs are getting a three month return on investment by selling local calls for 25 cents each from phones tied to a private commercial line.

But all is not smooth sailing. Some states have taken a position that they govern the interconnection of customer-provided coin telephones to the network. A Petition has been filed by Universal Payphone Corporation asking the FCC to issue a declaratory ruling that state and local tariffs governing private pay phones are invalid.

Los Angeles based National Pay Telephone Corporation also hopes to tap the private pay phone business by installing phones that accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express credit cards. They have just begun installing pay phones in Las Vegas Hotels.

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UPDATE ON DIAL-A-PORN CURTAILMENT

You will remember the "Dial-A-Porn" bit we did in the December 1st issue. For those of you that didn't get that report: the FCC, the New York telephone company, Congress, and a federal court are embroiled in a controversy regarding how to stop youngsters from dialling sexually explicit tape-recorded messages available over the phone lines. The fight against Dial-A-Porn is led by Representative Thomas Bliley (R-VA)

After legislation by Congress, the FCC ruled that "Dial-A-Porn" could only be made available to nighttime callers or the "message" had to be paid for by a credit card. A federal court found this to be unconstitutional and in violation of the First Amendment.

Now comes word that Bliley has asked the FCC to take another crack at rules preventing children from dialling the service. In a letter to Mark Fowler, FCC Chairman, Bliley suggests that the FCC require callers to present secret code numbers to gain access to dial-a-porn recordings. He didn't say where these "secret code numbers" should come from.

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AIRBORNE TELEPHONE CALLING EXPANDS

Airfone provides air-to-ground radio telephone service to the nation's airline passengers who get their phone calls charged to their credit cards. Air One, American, Delta, Eastern, Northwest, Pan Am, Republic, United, TWA... have all signed on. Northwest is currently logging about 600 calls a day. It costs about \$20,000 to equip an aircraft with Airfone. The airlines get a 11-14% commission.

The airlines that have the system in place report that customer response has been favorable but that additional ground stations are needed in the northwest to allow full national coverage. The company currently has 37 ground stations. Airfone's on-board computers automatically contact the farthest ground station in front of the airliner when calls are placed. Each station can handle 31 simultaneous single sideband calls.

To place a call you simply insert any of six major credit cards into an Airfone unit mounted on the cabin wall and take the released portable cordless handset back to your seat and dial the number. You get your credit card back when you return the handset. Phone calls cost \$7.50 for the first three minutes and \$1.25 for each minute thereafter regardless of distance. Calls can last up to 45 minutes at a cost of \$62.50.

Last November, the FCC said Airfone was an unnecessary luxury that would not be popular and denied Airfone a permanent frequency slot in the 900-MHz band. The Commission did, however, authorize them a one year extension of their experimental license.

Airfone president Jack Goeken said the one year reprieve will prove the FCC wrong. If the service is well accepted, Airfone stands a good chance of obtaining spectrum on a permanent basis although they may have to share it with the Mobile Satellite Service. At present they use 4-MHz of paired spectrum at 944-947 and 899-901 MHz. Goeken is no stranger to regulatory battles. He is a founder and past president of MCI Communications Corporation. Goeken Communications has spent some \$50 million in the last seven years to develop the public air-to-ground telephone system.

PAY PHONES BECOME VENDING MACHINES!

The newest electronic money-maker may well turn out to be private pay phones! The FCC ruled last year that it is legal to own your own pay phone. Some entrepreneurs are getting a three month return on investment by selling local calls for 25 cents each from phones tied to a private commercial line.

But all is not smooth sailing. Some states have taken a position that they govern the interconnection of customer-provided coin telephones to the network. A Petition has been filed by Universal Payphone Corporation asking the FCC to issue a declaratory ruling that state and local tariffs governing private pay phones are invalid.

Los Angeles based National Pay Telephone Corporation also hopes to tap the private pay phone business by installing phones that accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express credit cards. They have just begun installing pay phones in Las Vegas Hotels.

UPDATE ON DIAL-A-PORN CURTAILMENT

You will remember the "Dial-A-Porn" bit we did in the December 1st issue. For those of you that didn't get that report: the FCC, the New York telephone company, Congress, and a federal court are embroiled in a controversy regarding how to stop youngsters from dialling sexually explicit tape-recorded messages available over the phone lines. The fight against Dial-A-Porn is led by Representative Thomas Bliley (R-VA)

After legislation by Congress, the FCC ruled that "Dial-A-Porn" could only be made available to nighttime callers or the "message" had to be paid for by a credit card. A federal court found this to be unconstitutional and in violation of the First Amendment.

Now comes word that Bliley has asked the FCC to take another crack at rules preventing children from dialling the service. In a letter to Mark Fowler, FCC Chairman, Bliley suggests that the FCC require callers to present secret code numbers to gain access to dial-a-porn recordings. He didn't say where these "secret code numbers" should come from.

220-MHZ REPEATER COORDINATION SNAFU

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When Mendelsohn got word of the federal injunction and imminent suit, he overruled his 220 MHz repeater coordinator and asked the new Westchester County (NY) repeater to remain off of the air... at least temporarily. The Chase legal action for "negligence" against the Tri-State Repeater Council is now on "hold".

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According to Glenn, the Chase repeater is not coordinated in its present location. "The machine was moved from Avon, Connecticut (7 miles away), without our consent. The letter that I eventually got said they were moving, but did not ask for re-coordination." Glenn also said that the letter wasn't sent to him, but to Mendelsohn, the Tri-State Repeater Council

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"Our coordination guidelines state that we maintain a 70 mile on-channel separation between repeaters with a maximum radius for user protection of 35 miles," Glenn said. "A repeater that changes its erp (effective radiated power) by more than 3 db or more than 50 feet in height must be re-coordinated and it was not. I felt that the Westchester repeater was a legal coordination. The West Hartford repeater was not coordinated. Mendelsohn feels differently."

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Paul S. Vydareny, WB2VUK, of North Tarrytown, NY, is the trustee of the Westchester repeater. He said that they purchased new equipment at a cost of over \$2,000 and that he has local amateurs very upset with him since he has turned off the machine that they all chipped in \$150 each to buy... along with their own personal transceivers. He said he will take no action if he is coordinated another 220-MHz pair.

As it stands now, the West Hartford WINI repeater continues to operate in its new location, Mendelsohn has ordered the Westchester repeater off-the-air, and the 220-MHz coordinator has quit. There are no uncoordinated 220 pairs in the area. Chase has a federal law suit all set to go if the Westchester repeater shows up on his repeater frequency pair. It will be interesting to learn how this mess all turns out. It does point out one thing. There are more amateur repeaters - particularly in metropolitan areas - than spectrum to accomodate them and the demand for repeater pairs is mounting... and so is the squabbling.

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W5YI REPORT.....

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"RADIO MARTI" HAS YET TO APPEAR

"Radio Marti," the U.S. "news broadcasts" scheduled to be beamed to Cuba, is still not on the air even though all barriers were removed more than a year ago. Congress appropriated \$14 million for "Marti" in 1984 and \$11 million for fiscal 1985.

The AM broadcast station, named after a Cuban revolutionary hero, was to have started broadcasting under the auspices of the Voice of America by now. The purpose of "Marti" is to break the monopoly that the Cuban government has on news. The station will broadcast from Marathon Key, Florida, on 1180 khz, a frequency shared with WHAM(AM) - Rochester NY. Marti's staff will be located in Washington, DC, however.

Apparently the delay is caused by bureaucratic "red tape." The VOA says they are having trouble getting security clearances for its newly recruited staff. About half of the 178 staff positions have been filled.

The AM broadcast industry is bracing themselves for Cuban news beamed to the United States once "Marti" becomes operational. Congress has approved a taxpayer paid "compensation plan" for U.S. broadcasters who are damaged by Cuban interference.

GOLDWATER... COPYING THE CODE AGAIN!

Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, may upgrade! He is studying the code and using the AEA "Doctor DX" for a half an hour every evening. In a letter to Mike Lamb, N7ML, president of Advanced Electronic Applications, Goldwater said that he was "still having little problems copying as fast as I'd like to... I'm not up to 20 words a minute yet. If I say on Doctor DX, I'm sure in the devil going to get there."

Barry also mentioned another "new simulator for Morse training" that AEA is building and asked to be notified when it was available... "I would like to pick one up just to keep my hand at code."

"Doctor DX" takes amateurs on a make-believe DX-pedition. A microprocessor based

make-believe CW radio provides two-way fake DX contacts at varying audio levels and speeds. Apparently it is a barrel of fun and you increase your code copying ability at the same time. "I don't think there are words to describe just what Doctor DX will do for any amateur," Goldwater wrote.

The ARRL has filed two petitions for rulemaking with the FCC. RM-4879 requests an amendment of the rules governing the Amateur Radio Service to permit automatic control of amateur digital communications. RM-4880 asks that Part 97.61(a) be changed to allow F2 emissions in the 29.500 to 29.700 MHz 10-meter subband.

The FCC has adopted an Order making "editorial amendments" to Part 97. The changes are effective December 6, 1984. No comment period was authorized since the order "deleted obsolete terms, corrected omissions and provided better editorial uniformity." Amendments included Table of Contents changes and deletions of references to the Conditional Class license, 160-meter LORAN provisions, and FCC examination points. The FCC also added a 200 kilometer radius (124 mile) 420-450 MHz RF protection area adjacent to Warner Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. Amateurs in this zone must operate with reduced power outputs (no more than 50 watts PEP) unless expressly authorized by the Commission.

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LOWER PRICE ON VE TESTING MATERIALS!

The widespread availability of low price testing materials is a necessity if the Volunteer Program is to be a success and the Amateur Radio Service is to grow. Our own VE program has been using the testing materials available from the West Radio School (Gordon West, WB6NOA; 2414 College Drive; Costa Mesa, CA - Tel: 714-549-5000.)

Gordon teaches ham radio classes professionally and has excellent testing (and classroom teaching) materials. We feel it important that the amateur community know about these. In the past, Gordon has charged \$9.95 for each license class test set and code test tape. Each examination (both written and code) has ten versions each. The written examinations are according to the FCC's Study Guide and test selection protocol which requires a specified number of questions from each topic. Each version has a serial number "A" through "J." We simply advise our VE's which test version to administer.

Effective January 1, 1985, the West Radio School "VE Test Set" will cost \$10.00 for the entire battery of written examinations and code test tapes. (Include an additional \$3.00 postage) This is 30 versions of tests and 3 cassette tapes. Gordon says that this is under his cost, but he wants this as his contribution to the Volunteer Program.

The VE Test Set includes:

WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS

Element 3 (Tech/General)- 10 versions.
Element 4A (Advanced) - 10 versions.
Element 4B (Extra Class)- 10 versions.

The written examinations for each license class contains a confidential answer sheet. All tests are in multiple choice format. Once a examination is selected by the VEC for administration, the original is photocopied.

MORSE CODE EXAMINATIONS

Novice 5-wpm Test Tape - 10 versions.
General 13-wpm Test Tape-10 versions.
Extra Class 20-wpm Test Tape-10 versions.

The cassette code tapes contain numerous 5 minute QSOs to prevent memorization.

Each QSO is preceded by a one minute warm-up period. The test tapes use the FCC's published code transmission protocol. All of the instructions to the applicant are right on the tape.

Since Gordon has reduced the VE Test Set package price to \$10.00 for everything, we are discontinuing the use of all previous single version amateur radio operator examinations to prevent the test being compromised. The VE Test Sets are sold **ONLY** to accredited Volunteer Examiners.

Ham class instructors (and applicants as well) would do well to use the West Radio School's FCC Test Guides. These "key" on all of the exact questions in the FCC approved pool. The cost of these manuals is \$19.95 each for the Element 3 (Tech/General), Element 4A (Advanced) or Element 4B (Amateur Extra Class.) We have seen these manuals and they are excellent. Every (ARRL version) question/correct answer/distractor (wrong answer) is covered along with a reference as to where the correct answer is to be found. It is, by far, the best study material we have seen.

If any reader knows of other commercially available multiple-version testing materials, let us know so we can approve these also for administration.

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ON THE ARRL PAY-SCALE WE PUBLISHED....

We received a "Press Release" from Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, of the Westlink Radio Network, concerning the ARRL Pay Scale that we published in our December 15th Report.

This press release (which went to all amateur publications) said that "If you have received a copy of what is claimed as being an official pay-scale list taken from the ARRL Headquarters bulletin board, be aware that this material is well out of date and therefore in error." Westlink also got a copy and Pasternak says that their investigation showed "it was accurate only for the 1978 fiscal year." Pasternak said that this was confirmed to him by Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, League General Manager. He suggested that publications contact Dave for an updated "accurate appraisal."

W5YI REPORT.....

Page #9

January 15, 1985

I contacted the League, but Dave was tied up and couldn't talk to me. I later phoned him at his home and reached a recording.

Dave returned my call on the weekend. The question that I had for Dave was "Why would an outdated pay-scale be published on the League bulletin board in the first place." Sumner acknowledged that the pay scale was there, but that it was an old one that he had taken down several times over the years - only to have it returned there by "someone." He didn't know who.

THIRD PARTY & RECIPROCAL OPERATIONS

The following is a current list of countries that have third party traffic and reciprocal operating privileges with the United States and Canadian amateurs.

* = Automatic Reciprocity (No permit required)

	3rd Party Traffic		Reciprocal Operating:	
	U.S./Canada		U.S./ Canada	

Antigua & Barbuda	X	X		
Argentina	X		X	X
Australia	X	X	X	X
Austria			X	X
The Bahamas			X	X
Barbados			X	X
Belgium			X	X
Belize	X		X	
Bolivia	X	X	X	
Rep. of Botswana			X	X
Brazil	X		X	X
Canada (*)	X	-	X	-
Chile	X	X	X	X
Colombia	X	X	X	X
Costa Rica	X	X	X	X
Cuba	X			
Dominica	X	X		X
Dominican Republic	X	X	X	X
Denmark			X	X
Ecuador	X		X	X
El Salvador	X	X	X	
Fiji			X	
Finland			X	
France			X	X
The Gambia	X			
Ghana	X			
Greece			X	X
Grenada	X	X	X	X
Guatemala	X	X	X	X

	3rd Party Traffic		Reciprocal Operating:	
	U.S./Canada		U.S./ Canada	
Guyana	X	X		X
Fed.Rep./Germany			X	X
Haiti	X	X	X	X
Honduras	X	X	X	X
Iceland			X	X
India			X	X
Indonesia			X	X
Rep. of Ireland			X	X
Israel	X	X	X	X
Italy			X	x
Jamaica	X	X	X	X
Jordan	X		X	
Kiribati			X	
Kuwait			X	
Liberia	X		X	
Luxembourg			X	X
Rep. of Malta				X
Mexico	X	X		
Monaco			X	
Netherlands Antilles			X	
Netherlands			X	X
New Zealand			X	X
Nicaragua	X	X	X	X
Northern Ireland			X	X
Norway			X	X
Rep. of Panama	X		X	X
Papua New Guinea				X
Paraguay	X	X	X	
Peru	X	X	X	X
Philippines			X	X
Rep. of Poland				X
Portugal			X	X
St. Lucia	X		X	X
Senegal				X
Seychelles			X	
Sierra Leone			X	
Solomon Islands			X	
Spain			X	
St.Vincent/Grenadines	X			
Suriname			X	
Swaziland	X			
Sweden			X	X
Switzerland			X	X
Trinidad & Tobago	X	X	X	
Tuvalu			X	
United Kingdom			X	X
United States (*)	-	X	-	X
Uruguay	X	X	X	X
Venezuela	X	X	X	X
Yugoslavia			X	X
4UITU/Geneva	X			

LOWER PRICE ON VE TESTING MATERIALS!

The widespread availability of low price testing materials is a necessity if the Volunteer Program is to be a success and the Amateur Radio Service is to grow. Our own VE program has been using the testing materials available from the West Radio School (Gordon West, WB6NOA; 2414 College Drive; Costa Mesa, CA - Tel: 714-549-5000.)

Gordon teaches ham radio classes professionally and has excellent testing (and classroom teaching) materials. We feel it important that the amateur community know about these. In the past, Gordon has charged \$9.95 for each license class test set and code test tape. Each examination (both written and code) has ten versions each. The written examinations are according to the FCC's Study Guide and test selection protocol which requires a specified number of questions from each topic. Each version has a serial number "A" through "J." We simply advise our VE's which test version to administer.

Effective January 1, 1985, the West Radio School "VE Test Set" will cost \$10.00 for the entire battery of written examinations and code test tapes. (Include an additional \$3.00 postage) This is 30 versions of tests and 3 cassette tapes. Gordon says that this is under his cost, but he wants this as his contribution to the Volunteer Program.

The VE Test Set includes:

WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS

Element 3 (Tech/General)- 10 versions.
Element 4A (Advanced) - 10 versions.
Element 4B (Extra Class)- 10 versions.

The written examinations for each license class contains a confidential answer sheet. All tests are in multiple choice format. Once a examination is selected by the VEC for administration, the original is photocopied.

MORSE CODE EXAMINATIONS

Novice 5-wpm Test Tape - 10 versions.
General 13-wpm Test Tape-10 versions.
Extra Class 20-wpm Test Tape-10 versions.

The cassette code tapes contain numerous 5 minute QSOs to prevent memorization.

Each QSO is preceded by a one minute warm-up period. The test tapes use the FCC's published code transmission protocol. All of the instructions to the applicant are right on the tape.

Since Gordon has reduced the VE Test Set package price to \$10.00 for everything, we are discontinuing the use of all previous single version amateur radio operator examinations to prevent the test being compromised. The VE Test Sets are sold ONLY to accredited Volunteer Examiners.

Ham class instructors (and applicants as well) would do well to use the West Radio School's FCC Test Guides. These "key" on all of the exact questions in the FCC approved pool. The cost of these manuals is \$19.95 each for the Element 3 (Tech/General), Element 4A (Advanced) or Element 4B (Amateur Extra Class.) We have seen these manuals and they are excellent. Every (ARRL version) question/correct answer/distractor (wrong answer) is covered along with a reference as to where the correct answer is to be found. It is, by far, the best study material we have seen.

If any reader knows of other commercially available multiple-version testing materials, let us know so we can approve these also for administration.

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ON THE ARRL PAY-SCALE WE PUBLISHED....

We received a "Press Release" from Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, of the Westlink Radio Network, concerning the ARRL Pay Scale that we published in our December 15th Report.

This press release (which went to all amateur publications) said that "If you have received a copy of what is claimed as being an official pay-scale list taken from the ARRL Headquarters bulletin board, be aware that this material is well out of date and therefore in error." Westlink also got a copy and Pasternak says that their investigation showed "it was accurate only for the 1978 fiscal year." Pasternak said that this was confirmed to him by Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, League General Manager. He suggested that publications contact Dave for an updated "accurate appraisal."

number of the contact Volunteer Examiner.

Our Volunteer Testing Program utilizes amateur radio operator testing materials available in the commercial publishing marketplace. We approve specific examinations for administration by our VE's at test sessions. Although we prefer a written note of an upcoming test session, we can even do this by telephone!

While the FCC has eliminated their notification requirements, they have retained the "public announcement" that a VE must make before test sessions can be held. This public announcement can be in any form including an announcement at a club meeting, club bulletin release, posted handbill at the local ham equipment supplier or an announcement on your local repeater.

The public announcement must show the amount of reimbursement (test) fee required from each candidate and where and how it is to be paid.

DAYTON HAMVENTION SPECIAL AIR FARE

Want to save more than a third on your air fare to the 1985 Dayton HamVention? With the cooperation of Piedmont airlines, we have come up with a special deal for ham operators attending HamVention-'85. Last year we arranged for a special fare for Dallas amateurs going to Dayton with Piedmont Airlines' Dallas-Ft. Worth Customer Service Manager, Maurice Booth.

Maurice also happens to be a ham, WD4RGU and is well aware of the Dayton HamVention. HamVention is, by far, the world's largest convention of amateur radio operators and the largest convention held annually in Dayton, Ohio. They expect 25,000 participants this year. We talked about expanding the special fare program throughout their system for the 1985 HamVention to be held April 26, 27, and 28, 1985, at Dayton's Hara Arena. Maurice arranged for Piedmont's Convention Sales Department in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to contact us. We now have arranged for a:

"W5YI HamVention Special"
35% OFF THE REGULAR COACH AIRFARE

throughout the entire Piedmont system. Dayton is a "hub" for Piedmont and they have direct (mostly non-stop) flights from San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver, Dallas, Chicago, Cincinnati, Louisville, Miami, Tampa, Baltimore, Boston, Orlando, Detroit, South Bend, New York, Philadelphia and many, many other cities. We are being sent a "Convention Package" from Piedmont, but this has not arrived yet.

A special toll-free telephone number (1-800-334-8644) has been established for HamVentioneers to call in their reservations. This special fare is also available through travel agents. Piedmont will take your air line reservation and quote you 35% off the regular coach fare price. You must depart and return within a 10-day period of the HamVention. Payment for your airline ticket can be by credit card... or at the terminal when you leave.

The name of the Convention Sales Representative at this Winston-Salem, NC, toll-free number (1-800-334-8644) is Ellie Goforth. Contact her if you have any problems. Be sure to ask for the "W5YI HamVention Special" air fare.

Please give this special HamVention fare the widest possible publicity since it is the first time that any airline has offered a special fare solely for ham operators attending a hamfest. Publish this information in your club bulletins if at all possible... tell your friends. If this program is successful, it will be repeated next year again.

Amateurs desiring hotel accommodations should contact: Dayton HamVention Housing; 1980 Kettering Tower; Dayton, Ohio 45423 - (Tel: 513-223-2612)

The ARRL Southwest Division Convention promises to be a "biggy!" It will be held aboard the Queen Mary berthed in Long Beach, California, August 9 to 11. Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, will be the banquet speaker. Roy Neal (K6DUE of NBC News), Dave Sumner (K1ZZ League General Manager) and N3AKD (Chris Imlay, ARRL Legal Beagle) also on the same program. The famed rhombic farm of Don Wallace, W6AM, also will be available to registered attendees! They really think big out there!

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR EXAMINATION QUESTIONS A booklet containing the FCC Amateur Radio Operator Study Guide and all 1600 actual test questions for all ham classes (Novice through Extra Class) now available for \$2.50 (postpaid) from: THE W5YI REPORT; 1020 Byron Lane; Arlington, TX - 76012 Note our new phone number... (817) 461-6443

I contacted the League, but Dave was tied up and couldn't talk to me. I later phoned him at his home and reached a recording.

Dave returned my call on the weekend. The question that I had for Dave was "Why would an outdated pay-scale be published on the League bulletin board in the first place." Sumner acknowledged that the pay scale was there, but that it was an old one that he had taken down several times over the years - only to have it returned there by "someone." He didn't know who.

THIRD PARTY & RECIPROCAL OPERATIONS

The following is a current list of countries that have third party traffic and reciprocal operating privileges with the United States and Canadian amateurs.

* = Automatic Reciprocity (No permit required)

	3rd Party Traffic U.S./Canada	Reciprocal Operating: U.S./ Canada
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Antigua & Barbuda	X X	
Argentina	X	X X
Australia	X X	X X
Austria		X X
The Bahamas		X X
Barbados		X X
Belgium		X X
Belize	X	X
Bolivia	X X	X
Rep. of Botswana		X X
Brazil	X	X X
Canada (*)	X -	X -
Chile	X X	X X
Colombia	X X	X X
Costa Rica	X X	X X
Cuba	X	
Dominica	X X	X
Dominican Republic	X X	X X
Denmark		X X
Ecuador	X	X X
El Salvador	X X	X
Fiji		X
Finland		X
France		X X
The Gambia	X	
Ghana	X	
Greece		X X
Grenada	X X	X X
Guatemala	X X	X X

	3rd Party Traffic U.S./Canada	Reciprocal Operating: U.S./ Canada
Guyana	X X	X
Fed.Rep./Germany		X X
Haiti	X X	X X
Honduras	X X	X X
Iceland		X X
India		X X
Indonesia		X X
Rep. of Ireland		X X
Israel	X X	X X
Italy		X X
Jamaica	X X	X X
Jordan	X	X
Kiribati		X
Kuwait		X
Liberia	X	X
Luxembourg		X X
Rep. of Malta		X
Mexico	X X	
Monaco		X
Netherlands Antilles		X
Netherlands		X X
New Zealand		X X
Nicaragua	X X	X X
Northern Ireland		X X
Norway		X X
Rep. of Panama	X	X X
Papua New Guinea		X
Paraguay	X X	X
Peru	X X	X X
Philippines		X X
Rep. of Poland		X
Portugal		X X
St. Lucia	X	X X
Senegal		X
Seychelles		X
Sierra Leone		X
Solomon Islands		X
Spain		X
St.Vincent/Grenadines	X	X
Suriname		X
Swaziland	X	X X
Sweden		X X
Switzerland		X X
Trinidad & Tobago	X X	X
Tuvalu		X
United Kingdom		X X
United States (*)	- X	- X
Uruguay	X X	X X
Venezuela	X X	X X
Yugoslavia		X X
4UITU/Geneva	X	

WINTER CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW

The CES got underway this past weekend. It was Atari that stole the show! They introduced three powerful new home computers that will compete directly with the MacIntosh, but at about a third of the price! The #130ST (128K - \$399), #260ST (256K - \$499) and the #520ST (512K - \$599) will be sold by mass merchandisers such as K-Mart, Toys "R" Us and Target. The micros use the same Motorola 32 bit 68000 microprocessor as the Mac. The Atari booth was the busiest at the show. The units have built in "windowing" software and a user-friendly scheme. The 130ST with a drive and color monitor will cost about \$800 compared to \$1800 for the B/W MacIntosh. Software availability, however, could be a problem.

Commodore debuted their well publicized - but tardy - Commodore 128 (128K version of the "64") Their answer to the "Mac"... the \$1000 "Amiga"... will be introduced within 90 days.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER REMINDER....

The new VE rules require that every volunteer examiner that accepts reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses must forward a certification to the VEC before January 15. If you accepted any expense reimbursement for amateur radio operator tests administered after September 1 (the effective date of expense recoupment) through the end of 1984 you must send the following signed certification:

"All expenses for the period September 1, 1984, through December 31, 1984, associated with the Amateur Radio Service Volunteer Examination Program for which reimbursement was obtained were necessarily and prudently incurred."

It is not necessary that you send a detailed financial statement to your VEC. The VEC is required to remove the accreditation of any VE that accepts reimbursement that fails to forward a certification. The VEC must also notify the FCC's Compliance Branch in Washington of any VE discredited. All certifications are forwarded by the VEC to the FCC in Gettysburg (along with his own certification) by January 31, 1985.

GEARVAKf PUBLISHES WINTER EDITION

GEARVAKf is at it again. This time we are on the receiving end. GEARVAKf stands for the Greater Enon Amateur Radio Vention and Kite fly. Its a nutty group that randomly publishes a newsletter that spoofs amateur radio. It's headed up by Joe Ventolo, K8DMZ, who is actually a historian and writer for the Air Force at Wright Paterson AFB near Dayton.

Their winter edition is a pink "W5YIPES RETORT - Bits & Dit Pits. December 35th edition" There are all sorts of useless info in it. (Criteria for VE's... definitions such as: Antenna Feed--a mixture of powdered aluminum, Kibbles & Bits and cod liver oil; Push-Pull Amplifier--An amplifier with handles on each end; Polarization--the sticking together of CW characters in an extremely cold environment... you get the idea.)

There is also an interview that I supposedly do with a staffer of Walter Mondale, upset winner over Ronald Reagan about Mondale's views on amateur radio. A new product report is done on "Dr. Ragchew" the voice version of "Dr. DX."

If you want a copy of this foolishness (and I had absolutely nothing to do with it) Send \$1.00 to: The Gearvakf Bulletin; c/o Joe Ventolo K8DMZ; 356 Coronado Trail; Enon, OH 45323

POSTAGE RATES GOING UP IN FEBRUARY

If our information is correct, postage rates will increase an average of 9% next month. Even the popular Express Mail costs will be going up for the first time in four years. The Postal Service Board of Governors has approved the cost of a first-class stamp increasing to 22 cents.

Second class mailings... mostly newspapers and magazines... as well as third class commercial bulk mail will jump about 14%. Supposedly this increase will place the Postal Service on a "break even" basis. The U.S.P.S. lost \$453 million in the year ending September 30, 1984. Postage costs are one of our largest expenses.